

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re PATENT APPLICATION of

AVIDES MOREIRA, et al.

Appln. No.:

Group Art Unit: Unassigned

Filed: Herewith

Examiner: Unassigned

Title: CONNECTION WITH A COMPONENT FABRICATED OF A THERMOPLASTIC ELASTOMER

* * * *

March 8, 2001

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Hon. Commissioner of Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Prior to the examination, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (Amended) A process for the fashioning of a permanent connection between at least 2 components of an object, with at least one component thereof being a sealing or connecting component obtained by moulding of a thermoplastic elastomeric material, comprising:
 - a. stretching said one component of thermoplastic elastomeric material;
 - b. relaxing said one component subjected to step (a) at ambient temperature;
 - c. placing said one component obtained in step (b) at the location of the desired connection in the object;

- d. exposing said one object to an increased temperature of at most about 20°C below the melting point of the thermoplastic elastomer.

2. (Amended) A process according to claim 1, wherein the thermoplastic elastomer is a copolyether ester.

3. (Amended) A sealing or connecting component for the fashioning of a permanent connection, obtained by a process comprising:

- a. moulding the component from a thermoplastic elastomeric material;
- b. stretching the component;
- c. relaxing the component at ambient temperature.

4. (Amended) A sealing or connecting component according to claim 3, wherein the thermoplastic elastomer is a copolyether ester.

5. (Amended) A process for the fashioning of a permanent connection between at least 2 components of an object, with at least one sealing or connecting component according to claim 3, comprising:

- a. placing said sealing or connecting component at the location of the desired connection in the object;
- b. exposing said sealing or connecting to an increased temperature of at most about 20°C below the melting point of the thermoplastic elastomer.

6. (Amended) A sealing or connecting component according to claim 3, selected from body plugs, gasket rings, sealing rings, or shrink-on sleeveings.

7. (Amended) An object containing at least one fashioned permanent connection obtained by the process according to claim 1.

Please add following new claims 8-12:

8. (New) A process for the fashioning of a permanent connection between at least 2 components of an object, with at least one sealing or connecting component according to claim 4, comprising:

- a. placing said sealing or connecting component at the location of the desired connection in the object;
- b. exposing said sealing or connecting to an increased temperature of at most about 20°C below the melting point of the thermoplastic elastomer.

9. (New) A sealing or connecting component according to claim 5, selected from body plugs, gasket rings, sealing rings, or shrink-on sleeveings.

10. (New) An object containing at least one fashioned permanent connection obtained by the process according to claim 3.

11. (New) An object containing at least one fashioned permanent connection obtained by the process according to claim 5.

12. (New) An object containing at least one fashioned permanent connection obtained by the process according to claim 8.

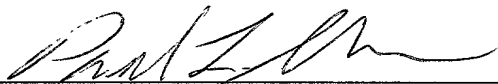
REMARKS

Claims 1-7 have been amended to correct minor idiomatic errors. Claims 5, 6 and 7 have been amended and new claim 8-12 have been added to eliminate multiple dependency of the claims. Support for new claims can be found, for example, in originally presented claim 5, 6 and 7. No new matter has been added.

Applicants respectfully submit that their application is in condition for allowance. Notice to that affect is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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APPENDIX

VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES

IN THE CLAIMS:

Claims 1-7 are amended as follows:

1. (Amended) [Process] A process for the fashioning of a permanent connection between at least 2 components of an object, with at least one component thereof being a sealing or connecting component obtained by moulding of a thermoplastic elastomeric material, [characterized in that the component is subject to a treatment] comprising [the following steps]:
 - a. stretching [of the] said one component of thermoplastic elastomeric material;
 - b. [relaxation of the] relaxing said one component subjected to step (a) at ambient temperature;
 - c. [placement of the] placing said one component obtained in step (b) at the location of the desired connection in the object;
 - d. [exposure] exposing said one object to an increased temperature of at most about 20°C below the melting point of the thermoplastic elastomer.
2. (Amended) [Process] A process according to claim 1, [characterized in that] wherein the thermoplastic elastomer is a copolyether ester.

3. (Amended) [Sealing] A sealing or connecting component for the fashioning of a permanent connection, obtained by a process comprising [the steps of]:

- a. moulding the component from a thermoplastic elastomeric material;
- b. stretching [of] the component;
- c. [relaxation of] relaxing the component at ambient temperature.

4. (Amended) [Sealing] A sealing or connecting component according to claim 3, [characterized in that] wherein the thermoplastic elastomer is a copolyether ester.

5. (Amended) [Process] A process for the fashioning of a permanent connection between at least 2 components of an object, with at least one sealing or connecting component according to [any one of claims 3-4] claim 3, comprising [the steps of]:

- a. [placement of the] placing said sealing or connecting component at the location of the desired connection in the object;
- b. [exposure] exposing said sealing or connecting to an increased temperature of at most about 20°C below the melting point of the thermoplastic elastomer.

6. (Amended) [Sealing] A sealing or connecting component according to claim 3 [or 4, or as used in claim 1 or 2, chosen] selected from [the group of]body plugs, gasket rings, sealing rings, or shrink-on sleeveings.

7. (Amended) [Object] An object containing at least one fashioned permanent connection obtained by the process according to [any one of claims 1, 2 or 5] claim 1.

New claims 8-12 have been added.

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